Draconyx

Draconyx (meaning "dragon claw") is a genus of dinosaur from the Late Jurassic. It was an ornithopod which lived in what is now Portugal and was a herbivore. It was found in the Lourinhã Formation in 1991, and described by Octávio Mateus and Miguel Telles Antunes in 2001.[1]

Draconyx
Temporal range: Late Jurassic, Tithonian
Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN
Scientific classification
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Clade: Dinosauria
Order: †Ornithischia
Suborder: †Ornithopoda
Genus: †*Draconyx* Mateus & Antunes, 2001
Species: †***D. loureiroi***
Binomial name
†***Draconyx loureiroi*** Mateus & Antunes, 2001

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Etymology

The type species, known from only partial remains, is *Draconyx loureiroi*. The generic name is derived from Latin *draco*, "dragon", and Ancient Greek ὄνυξ, *onyx*, "claw". The specific name is in honour of João de Loureiro, a Portuguese jesuit priest, a pioneer in Portuguese palaeontology.

Material

The holotype, **ML 357**, a partial skeleton lacking the skull, consists of two maxillary teeth, three caudal centra, one chevron, a distal epiphysis of right humerus, one manual phalanx, three manual unguals, a distal epiphysis of the right femur, the proximal and distal epiphyses of the tibia and fibula, an astragalus, a calcanaeum, three tarsals, four metatarsals and pedal phalanges. It was in 1991 found at Vale de Frades by Carlos Anunciação of the Museu da Lourinhã, in layers of the Bombarral Unit dating to the Tithonian. Histology shows that the holotype specimen was between 27 and 31 years old.[2] A left femur (ML 434), found near Praia do Caniçal, has been referred to this taxon. *Draconyx* was a small bipedal herbivore. Gregory S. Paul in 2010 estimated the length at 3.5 metres, the weight at 150 kilograms.[3]

Systematics

According to Mateus and Antunes (2001), *Draconyx loureiroi* is a member of the Iguanodontia, more specifically the Camptosauridae, based on the maxillary teeth, which have a strong vertical primary ridge on the distal side of the labial crown, and the femur, which is curved and has a prominent lesser trochanter.

Notes

1. Mateus, Octávio; Telles Antunes, Miguel (2001). "Draconyx loureiroi, a new camptosauridae (Dinosauria, Ornithopoda) from the Late Jurassic of Lourinhã, Portugal". *Annales de Paléontologie*. **87**: 61. doi:10.1016/S0753-3969(01)88003-4 (https://doi.org/10.1016%2FS0753-3969%2801%2988003-4).
2. Waskow, Katja; Mateus, Octavio (2017). "Dorsal rib histology of dinosaurs and a crocodylomorph from western Portugal: Skeletochronological implications on age determination and life history traits" (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpv.2017.01.003). *Comptes Rendus Palevol*. doi:10.1016/j.crpv.2017.01.003 (https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.crpv.2017.01.003).
3. Paul, G.S., 2010, *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs*, Princeton University Press p. 285

External links

- Mateus, O. & Antunes, M.T. (2001). "*Draconyx loureiroi*, a new Camptosauridae (Dinosauria: Ornithopoda) from the Late Jurassic of Lourinhã, Portugal". *Annales de Paleontologie*, 87(1): 61-73 (https://web.archive.org/web/20070928122545/http://www.museulourinha.org/pt/Omateus/Papers/MateusAntunes2001Draconyx.pdf.pdf)

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